

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 4556

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, DR
SUB: GUZMAN TAKES CHARGE

1. AS HE INDICATED HE WOULD PRIOR TO HIS INAUGURATION,
PRESIDENT GUZMAN HAS MOVED RAPIDLY IN THE LAST TWO DAYS
TO SHAKE UP THE MILITARY HIERARCHY.

2. GUZMAN HAS BROUGHT INTO KEY POWER POSITIONS OFFICERS HE
BELIEVES ARE COMMITTED TO THE CONSTITUTION AND THE CONCEPT OF
CIVILIAN SUPREMACY IN GOVERNMENT, WHILE SWEEPING OUT SOME
ARMED FORCES CHIEFS WHO LONG HAVE CONDUCTED THEMSELVES
AS LORDS PARAMOUNT IN THIS COUNTRY. BESIDES REPLACING
MGENS. RENE BEAUCHAMP JAVIER, NEIT NIVAR SEIJAS AND
MARCO ANTONIO JORGE MORENO, THREE OFFICERS CREDITED WITH
LAUNCHING THE NEAR COUP D' ETAT THAT WOULD HAVE
ANNULLED GUZMAN'S MAY 16 ELECTORAL VICTORY, THE NEW
CHIEF EXECUTIVE ORDERED THE RETIREMENT OF FOUR OTHER
OFFICERS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE OLD REGIME.

3. THESE WERE SANTOS MELIDO MARTE, THE 82-YEAR-OLD CHIEF
OF BALAGUER'S PALACE SECURITY AND TRUJULLO ERA RELIC
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WHOSE GRAFTING WAS NOTORIOUS; CARLOS JAQUEZ OLVERO,
BALAGUER'S TOUGH PROCONSUL IN THE REMOTE NORTHWEST OF
THE COUNTRY, AND TWO OVER-AGE GENERALS, ANSELMO PILARTE
AND ANGEL URBANO MATOS FELIZ. OTHER OFFICERS AWAITED NEWS
OF THEIR FATE AS THE PRESIDENT NAMED GEN. RAFAEL VALDEZ
HILARIO TO BOTH THE CABINET POST AS ARMED FORCES SECRETARY AND AS
CHIEF OS STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE ALSO CONFIRMED IN THEIR

POSITIONS GEN. ENRIQUE PEREZ Y PEREZ AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND GEN. ROBINSON BREA GARO AS NATIONAL CHIEF OF POLICE. IN THE OTHER SERVICES, THE NEWLY-ELEVATED AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, SALVADOR LLUBERES MONTAS, AND THE VETERAN CHIEF OF THE NAVY, FRANCISCO RIVERA CAMINERO, WERE REPLACED BY GEN. ALBERT IMBERT MAGREGOR AND ADM. FRANCISCO AMIAMA, RESPECTIVELY, BOTH SAID TO BE COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS.

4. NEIT NIVAR, WIDELY REGARDED AS THE MOST DANGEROUS THREAT TO THE GUZMAN ADMINISTRATION, WAS SAID BY FRIENDS TO BE "TRANQUIL AND CONTENT" WHILE HE STAYED AT HIS FARM TO CONTEMPLATE HIS FUTURE. HIS FRIENDS SAID HE MAY BE PLANNING TO GO TO THE US FOR MEDICAL CHECKUPS AND A REST. BEAUCHAMP IS, APPARENTLY, AT HOME CONSIDERING HIS OWN IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS, AS IS THE RECENTLY-NAMED AND NOW EX-CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES, MGEN. JORGE MORENO.

5. ON THE CIVILIAN SIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT, GUZMAN MOVED WITH EQUAL ENERGY. HE CONFIRMED AS FOREIGN SECRETARY, FOR THE TIME BEING ANYWAY, ADM. EMILIO JIMENEZ, AN ANTI-NEIT OFFICER WHO HAS CARRIED THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT PORTFOLIO WITH SOME DISTINCTION: SECRETARY OF FINANCE, JOSE MARIA CABRAL, VICE-RECTOR OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN SANTIAGO AND A RESPECTED ECONOMIC TECHNOCRAT; HECTOR MEJIA, AN AGRO-BUSINESSMAN, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE; EDWARDO FERNANDEZ, ANOTHER RESPECTED BUSINESS FIGURE, HEAD

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OF THE CENTRAL BANK; JOSE RODRIGUEZ SOLDEVILA, A PHYSICIAN AND LONG-TIME PRD LOYALIST, HEAD OF PUBLIC HEALTH; VINCENTE SANCHEZ BARET, A YOUNG PRD VETERAN WHO MANAGED GUZMAN'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN, SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND POLICE; AND JULIO CESAR CASTANOS ESPAILLAT, A PROMINENT LAWYER, NEWS-PAPER PUBLISHER AND FORMER RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, SECRETARY OF EDUCATION. GUZMAN ALSO NAMED SEVERAL OTHERS CLOSE TO HIM DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND BEFORE, INCLUDING HIS DAUGHTER SONIA AND HER HUSBAND, AS PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS AND SECRETARIES WHO WILL WORK OUT OF THE NATIONAL PALACE. KEY AMONG THESE, BESIDES SONIA, IS HECTOR INCHAUSTEGUI, WRITER, DIPLOMAT AND EX-NEWSPAPER EDITOR, WHO ASIDE FROM

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BEING GUZMAN'S INTIMATE CONFIDANT IS ALSO HIS SPEECH-WRITER.

6. ONE OF THE MORE INTERESTING MOVES GUZMAN MADE WAS THE NAMING OF HIS VICE-PRESIDENT, JACOBO JAjlUTA, AS HEAD OF CORDE, THE COORDINATING AGENCY FOR THE MANY STATE-OWNED INDUSTRIES WHICH WERE CREATED TO RUN THE TRUJILLO FAMILY BUSINESSES AFTER THE DICTATOR WAS SLAIN IN 1961. MAjlUTA, WHO HAS HIS EYE ON THE PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION IN 1982, THUS WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE ASSERTED HIMSELF AS A REAL POLITICAL FACTOR AND SIMPLY NOT A CEREMONIAL STAND-IN FOR HIS CHIEF. EXACTLY HOW MUCH AUTHORITY HE WILL BE ABLE TO EXERCISE, ASSUMING THE PRESIDENT NAMES STRONG PERSONALITIES TO MAN THESE STATE ENTERPRISES (SUCH AS GAETAN BUCHER, WHO ALREADY HAS BEEN NAMED TO THE IMPORTANT STATE COMPANY, CEA, WHICH PRODUCES UPWARDS OF TWO-THRIDDS OF THE NATION'S SUGAR OUTPUT) REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

7. SO DOES THE FUTURE ROLE OF PRD SECGEN JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ. PENA, WHO HAS STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED THAT HE WILL TAKE NO GOVERNMENT JOB OR PUBLIC SALARY, SAYS HE WILL GO ABROAD SHORTLY ON SOCIALIST INTERNATINAL BUSINESS, HEEDING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ADVICE OF MANY FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS THAT HE GIVE GUZMAN A LITTLE ELBOW ROOM TO ORGANIZE HIS ADMINISTRATION: WHILE THE ANTI-GUZMAN ELEMENTS IN THE MILITARY SEEM DOCILE AT THE MOMENT, THE MERE PRESENCE OF PENA IN THE COUNTRY, IS ENOUGH, ESPECIALLY IF HE INDULGES HIMSELF IN CARELESS RHETORIC AS HE IS WONT TO DO, TO STIR UP TROUBLE.

8. GUZMAN'S RAPID TAKEOVER OF THE LEVERS OF POWER SPARKED WIDESPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT. THERE ALREADY EXISTED AN

ATMOSPHERE OF NATIONAL REJOICING IN THIS CAPITAL THE PAST WEEK. THE RAFT OF DECREES THE NEW PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED SINCE BEING SWORN IN ON WEDNESDAY, ESPECIALLY THOSE SACKING BALAGUER'S KEY MILITARY SUPPORTERS, WAS GREETED BY AN OUTPOURING OF PEOPLE INTO THE STREETS AND PLAZAS OF SANTO DOMINGO: WE HEAR THE SAME PHENOMENA OCCURRED IN OTHER CITIES OF THE COUNTRY. CROWDS CHEERED AND HORNS HONKED ALL OVER AS A CARNIVAL SPIRIT SEEMED TO REGIN.

9. THERE IS EVIDENT PRIDE AMONG DOMINICANS THAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SOMETHING GENUINELY HISTORIC. THE PRESENCE OF SO MANY FOREIGN DELEGATIONS-SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG WERE LIONIZED AT PUBLIC EVENTS AND IN THE MEDIA, AS WERE GENERAL MCAULIFFE AND, IN THE ALL-IMPORTANT SPORTS PAGES, HANK AARON-ENHANCED THE SENSE THAT THE WHOLE WORLD WAS AWARE THAT REAL DEMOCRACY HAD ARRIVED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THAT-AND THE LONG SUPPRESSED ANGER OF THE PRD RANK-AND-FILE WITH THE RECENT BEHAVIOR OF THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT-SEEMED TO BE WHAT PROMPTED GUZMAN TO ATTACK THE BALAGUER GOVERNMENT IN THE STRONG TERMS HE DID IN HIS AUGUST 16 INAUGURAL ADDRESS. SOME PEOPLE THROUGH GUZMAN HAD MADE A MISTAKE IN CRITICIZING HIS PREDECESSOR, SOMETHING HE REFUSED TO DO IN THE 3 LONG MONTHS SINCE HE WON THE ELECTION; OTHERS FELT IT WAS HIGH TIME THAT BALAGUER

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WAS CALLED TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS POOR BEHAVIOR DURING HIS FINAL DAYS IN OFFICE. STILL OTHERS WORRIED THAT IT MIGHT BOOMERANG, THAT GUZMAN WOULD INCITE TO ACTION THOSE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS IN THIS SOCIETY WHO ARE BELIEVED TO BE READY TO POUNCE ON THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

10. ONLY TIME AND THE TACTICS AND STRATEGY OF ANTONIO GUAMAN WILL TELL THE FUTURE OF POLITICAL LIBERTY IN THIS COUNTRY. THE NEW PRESIDENT HAS MOVED WITH DETERMINATION AND DISPATCH TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVES OF POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM HERE. HE HAS BEGUN WITH AN ENORMOUS RESERVOIR OF POPULAR GOOD WILL, EVEN EUPHORIA. THE COUNTRY HAS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED A HISTORIC JUNCTURE AND ITS PEOPLE APPEAR CONFIDENT OF THE FUTURE.

11. ONE TANGIBLE SIGN OF THIS CAN BE SEEN IN SANTO DOMINGO TODAY. THE CITY IS BACK AT WORK, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL WEEKS THE NATIONAL DISTRICT'S SANITATION DEPARTMENT HAS DEPLOYED GARBAGE TRUCKS THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL TO CLEAN UP THE MOUNDS OF TRASH THAT HAVE ACCUMULATED IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION. THE NEW MAYOR OF SANTO DOMINGO, PEDRO FRANCO BADIA, PROMISES TO HAVE THE PLACE CLEANED UP IN 10 DAYS.

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